

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended, and claim 2 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. No new matter is added. Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 2. By this Amendment, claim 2 is canceled, and the allowable subject matter of canceled claim 2 is incorporated into claim 1.

Applicants also note with appreciation the allowance of claim 3.

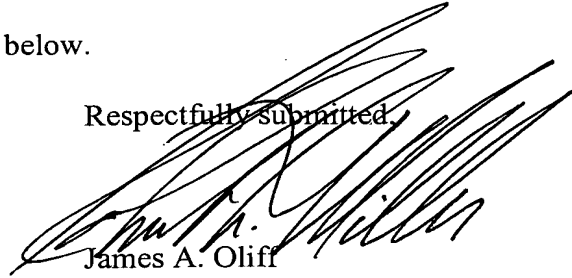
The Office Action rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,927,499 to Vesborg in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,403,804 to Colombo, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,850,494 to Howard, Jr. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As described above, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the allowable features of canceled claim 2. As such, this rejection is moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1 and 3 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff

Registration No. 27,075

Robert A. Miller

Registration No. 32,771

JAO:KXH/tbh

Date: December 2, 2005

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--